

Education Committee

Senator Ken Bennett, Chairperson



Mason Holler, Research Analyst

Lauren Brazele, Intern

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ENACTED

private postsecondary education; board; continuation (S.B. 1039) – Chapter 156

Continues the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education for eight years, until July 1, 2032, retroactive to July 1, 2024.

adult education; program schools; revisions (S.B. 1113) – Chapter 50

Exempts a Continuing High School and Workforce Training Program (Program) school from all applicable legal requirements prescribed for public schools if the Program school is expressly exempt from the legal requirement or the State Board of Education determines the legal requirement is not feasible or applicable to the education of adult learners. A Program school must: 1) administer an English language proficiency assessment that is accepted by an Arizona university or community college; 2) attempt to confirm each adult learner's withdrawal from another school; and 3) require adult learners to provide reliable proof of age and verifiable residency documentation.

Prohibits the Arizona Department of Education from assigning an annual achievement profile letter grade to a Program school.

tuition; family; posttraumatic stress; suicide (S.B. 1174) – Chapter 230

[SEE THE MILITARY AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SAFETY & BORDER SECURITY COMMITTEE.](#)

school boards; sex offender registry (S.B. 1280) – Chapter 11

Deems a person who is required to register as a sex offender as ineligible for election or appointment to a school district governing board.

sex offender registration; school notification (S.B. 1404) – Chapter 57

[SEE THE MILITARY AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SAFETY & BORDER SECURITY COMMITTEE.](#)

AZ529 savings plan; committee; membership (S.B. 1454) – Chapter 15

Allows a member's designee to serve on the AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) in the member's place and requires at least one Advisory Committee public member to have financial planning experience. All current Advisory Committee members may continue to serve until the expiration of their terms, after which the State Treasurer must make all subsequent appointments.

online instruction; virtual setting; assessments (S.B. 1457) – Chapter 239

Authorizes an Arizona Online Instruction school or dropout recovery program that is provided online (virtual schools) to administer a statewide assessment in a virtual setting, if the virtual school meets outlined requirements. A virtual school that administers a statewide assessment in a virtual setting may administer the assessment in person to any specific student or student group, if the virtual school identifies a necessary and appropriate exception to the virtual setting. Specifies certain assessments that a virtual school may not administer in a virtual setting.

Requires the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), when sufficient monies are available, to include a provision for testing in a virtual setting in each contract ADE executes or extends with a third-party assessment vendor. A virtual school may not administer an assessment in a virtual setting until the first school year after the school year in which ADE executes or extends a contract for the assessment that includes a provision for testing in a virtual setting.

school employment; criminal convictions; disclosure (S.B. 1558) – Chapter 110

Requires an applicant for public or private school employment to disclose whether the applicant has pled guilty or no contest, been convicted of or is awaiting trial on: 1) *a dangerous crime against children*; 2) *sexual abuse or sexual assault* of a minor; 3) *sexual conduct* with a minor; 4) an offense that requires registration as a sex offender; 5) an act committed in another state or territory that if committed in Arizona would be a *dangerous crime against children* or *sexual abuse or sexual assault* of a minor; or 6) a preparatory offense of the outlined offenses. A knowing violation of the disclosure requirement is a class 6 felony. It is a defense to a prosecution for a violation of the requirement to disclose an offense committed in another state or territory if the individual's failure to disclose was due to a good faith mistake of law.

public schools; noncertificated personnel; discipline (S.B. 1560) – Chapter 6

Requires a noncertificated person who has been disciplined in another jurisdiction for immoral or unprofessional conduct to complete the disciplinary process in that jurisdiction before the person may be employed by a public school. If the State Board of Education (SBE) receives notice that another jurisdiction has revoked or suspended a noncertificated person's employment, the SBE may prohibit that person from being employed by a public school in a manner consistent with the other jurisdiction's disciplinary terms. If the noncertificated person requests a hearing, the SBE must first conduct the hearing before determining whether to uphold or decline the disciplinary terms. *Noncertificated person* includes a current or prospective school district or charter school employee who meets specified requirements.

If the SBE receives notification that a person's educator certificate has been suspended in another jurisdiction, the SBE may suspend all Arizona certificates issued to that person in a manner consistent with the other jurisdiction's suspension terms.

provisional community colleges; accreditation; oversight (H.B. 2039) – Chapter 84 E

An emergency measure effective April 8, 2024, that allows a provisional community college district (CCD) to maintain a regional accreditation and oversight relationship with another postsecondary institution, rather than only another CCD, for the purposes of organizing a CCD.

charter schools; state board; continuation (H.B. 2172) – Chapter 65

Continues the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools for eight years, until July 1, 2032, retroactive to July 1, 2024.

county aid; school districts; revisions (H.B. 2173) – Chapter 134 E

An emergency measure effective April 10, 2024, that modifies property tax calculations for common school districts not within a high school district (Type 03 districts) retroactive to TYs beginning January 1, 2024. Modifies the minimum qualifying tax rate (MQTR) levy amount in a school district not eligible for equalization assistance by subtracting the amount levied by the Type 03 district additional tax and requires the Type 03 district additional tax levy to be equal to the lesser of: 1) a rate that is equal to the applicable qualifying tax rate; or 2) a rate that would result in a levy that equals the statewide average per pupil funding for high school pupils multiplied by the student count of resident high school pupils in the Type 03 district during the prior school year. For the purposes of the Type 03 district additional tax levy, *per pupil funding* is the weighted student count group A weight amount calculated for grades 9 through 12, multiplied by the sum of: 1) the district additional assistance prescribed for a school district with a student count of 600 or more in grades 9 through 12; and 2) the statutory base level amount.

Directs unexpended and unencumbered monies collected by the Type 03 district additional tax in TY 2023 and monies collected from the Type 03 district additional tax levy designated for county aid for equalization assistance to the State Treasurer for deposit in the state General Fund for school financial assistance. Outlines information that the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) must annually provide to Type 03 districts and each county board of supervisors to levy the Type 03 district additional tax. In FYs 2025 and 2026, ADE may use the most recent data from its annual open enrollment report to provide the information.

Excludes the MQTR and Type 03 district additional tax from the criteria the Property Tax Oversight Commission uses to determine whether a school's primary property tax rate exceeds the maximum primary property tax rate.

school personnel; emergency glucagon administration (H.B. 2174) – Chapter 28

Authorizes a school district governing board or charter school governing body to annually request a standing order for glucagon from certain medical professionals and to stock glucagon doses at school sites for emergency administration to a pupil by a: 1) school nurse or nurse under contract with the school; 2) a licensed doctor of medicine (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO) or doctor of naturopathic medicine; 3) a nurse practitioner or physician assistant; or 4) a voluntary

diabetes care assistant. A public school employee or contractor who implements a diabetes medical management plan must provide the school with a written statement signed by a medical professional attesting that the employee or contractor has received proper glucagon administration training, which must be regularly renewed. A school district or charter school may apply for grants, accept monetary donations or participate in third-party programs to assist with glucagon purchases.

Immunizes outlined medical professionals from civil liability for the consequences of a good faith adoption and implementation of glucagon administration policy requirements. Excludes, from the definition of *unprofessional conduct* of a licensed MD or DO, the writing or dispensing of a glucagon prescription without an examination or doctor-patient relationship, if the prescription is for emergency school use. Excludes, from the definition of *unprofessional conduct* of a pharmacist or pharmacy intern, knowingly dispensing a glucagon prescription order pursuant to a diagnosis by mail or the internet, if the order is for emergency school use.

universities; student fees; clubs; organizations (H.B. 2178) – Chapter 135

Requires a public university that allocates student fees to support individual university-recognized student organizations or clubs to: 1) provide each student who is charged fees with a reasonable opportunity to select organizations or clubs to which the university may not allocate the student's pro rata share of the fees; and 2) for each student who makes a selection, allocate the student's pro rata share of the fees only for programs that are open to all students. If a student does not make a selection, the public university may allocate the student's pro rata share of the fees to support the activities of any individual university-recognized organization or club or to programs that are open to all students.

purple star school designation; requirements (H.B. 2246) – Chapter 90

Establishes the Purple Star School Program (Program) within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to identify schools that provide transition support to military students and their families. Any school that offers instruction to students in kindergarten programs or grades 1 through 12 may apply to ADE to participate in the Program, and ADE must approve an application if a school demonstrates that the school: 1) provides professional development training relating to military students' unique needs; 2) designates an employee as the school's point of contact for the Program; 3) establishes a peer mentorship program; 4) holds at least one patriotic event during each school year that recognizes the service of military members and their families; and 5) creates and maintains a website or webpage with resources for military students and families. ADE may adopt policies and procedures to implement the Program and develop additional criteria for Program eligibility determination. Outlines annual reporting and review requirements.

schools; enrollment preference; armed forces (H.B. 2311) – Chapter 68

Allows a school district to give enrollment preference to the children of a U.S. Armed Forces member who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty. Allows a charter school to give enrollment preference to, and reserve capacity for, the children of a U.S. Armed Forces member who is on active duty or was killed in the line of duty.

foster children; high school; transfer (H.B. 2645) – Chapter 98

Requires each school district governing board (governing board) and charter school governing body (governing body) to develop and adopt policies relating to transferring academic credits and educational records for foster children who are enrolled in grades 9 through 12 and transfer schools pursuant to a best interest educational placement determination. A school district or charter school must attempt to accept academic credits as core credits, consider each of the foster child's mastered learning outcomes and demonstrated competency requirements and provide the foster child's graduation plan to specified individuals. A school district or charter school that enrolls a foster child pursuant to a best interest educational placement determination may administer a local competency assessment to award full or partial credit for the core competencies identified in the educational records provided by the foster child's school of origin. The State Board of Education (SBE) must develop guidelines for schools to consider when developing the transfer credit policies, including alternative methods for a receiving school to calculate and accept a foster child's academic credits.

Precludes a governing board or governing body from requiring a foster child who is enrolled in grades 11 or 12 and transfers schools pursuant to a best interest educational placement determination to satisfy a course of study or competency requirement for graduation that is in addition to, or higher than, minimum SBE-prescribed course of study and competency requirements.

Holocaust education study committee (NOW: study committee; Holocaust; other genocides) (H.B. 2760) – Chapter 99

Establishes the 14-member Education on the Holocaust and Other Genocides Study Committee (Study Committee) and outlines Study Committee membership. The Study Committee must: 1) review the course of study and competency requirements that include a requirement that students be taught about the Holocaust and other genocides; 2) study how teacher lessons and trainings regarding the Holocaust and other genocides can be improved; 3) study how public universities can incorporate teachings of the Holocaust and other genocides into courses and campus engagements; 4) explore how public schools and universities can facilitate student speaking engagements by survivors, their families and liberators; and 5) submit a report regarding the Study Committee's activities and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and Secretary of State by April 1, 2025. Terminates the Study Committee on October 1, 2025.

Holocaust education; instruction requirements (H.B. 2779) – Chapter 153

Specifies that the State Board of Education's course of study and competency requirements relating to the Holocaust and other genocides must include a requirement for the topic to be taught for at least three class periods on at least two separate occasions during grades 7 through 12.

higher education; 2024-2025 (H.B. 2904/S.B. 1742) – Chapter 216

[SEE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.](#)

K-12 education; 2024-2025 (H.B. 2906/S.B. 1744) – Chapter 218

[SEE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.](#)

taxation; 2024-2025 (H.B. 2909/S.B. 1747) – Chapter 221 W/O

[SEE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.](#)

expenditure limit; school districts; authorization (H.C.R. 2065/S.C.R. 1047)

Effective June 15, 2024, authorizes school districts in FY 2025 to spend local revenues in excess of the aggregate expenditure limitation.

LEGISLATION VETOED

~~schools; sexually explicit materials; classification~~ (NOW: schools; libraries; explicit materials; classification) (S.B. 1007) – VETOED

[SEE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.](#)

school districts; partisan elections (S.B. 1097) – VETOED

Requires, for elections beginning January 1, 2025, school district governing board election ballots to include each candidate's partisan designation. A candidate's partisan designation is the political party of which the candidate is a qualified elector 120 days before the primary election.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that S.B. 1097 would further the politicization and polarization of school district governing boards.

school classrooms; ten commandments; posting (S.B. 1151) – VETOED

Allows any school teacher or administrator to read or post, in any school building, copies or excerpts of the Ten Commandments.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that S.B. 1151 is unnecessary and she is concerned about its constitutionality.

public schools; showers; reasonable accommodations (S.B. 1182) – VETOED

Requires a public school to provide a reasonable accommodation to a person who is unwilling or unable to use a multi-occupancy shower room designated for the person's sex, if the person requests an accommodation in writing and submits satisfactory evidence of the person's sex to the school. A public school may adopt policies to implement the reasonable accommodation requirements, including provisions authorizing a person to enter a multi-occupancy shower room

designated for the opposite sex for outlined purposes. A *reasonable accommodation* includes access to a single-occupancy or employee shower room and does not include a shower room designated for the opposite sex while persons of the opposite sex are present.

Outlines legal remedies for persons whose written request for a reasonable accommodation is denied and for persons who encounter a person of the opposite sex in a multi-occupancy shower room designated for their sex that is either located in a public school building or provided in connection with a public school-sponsored event. A claim must be initiated within two years in superior court in the county where either the person resides or the public school is located. An aggrieved person who prevails in court may recover monetary damages for all psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered. Designates this legislation as the *Arizona Accommodations for All Children Act*.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that she will not sign legislation that attacks Arizonans.

scholarships; requirements; foster care students (H.B. 2095) – VETOED

Adds students who are placed in state foster care before graduating from high school or obtaining a general equivalency diploma to the student population that is eligible to receive a scholarship or grant awarded through the Credit for Contributions to Certified School Tuition Organizations or the Credit for Contributions to School Tuition Organizations for Low-Income Students. Outlines foster care student eligibility criteria.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that H.B. 2095 would have an estimated impact on the state General Fund and should be considered in the full context of budget discussions.

schools; instruction; victims of communism (H.B. 2629) – VETOED

Designates November 7 of each year as Victims of Communism Day, which is a non-legal holiday, and requires any American government course required for high school graduation to include at least 45 minutes of instruction on the history of communist regimes. The State Board of Education (SBE) must develop a list of recommended educational resources on the history of communist regimes that align with academic standards and establish a process for public schools to recommend resources for addition to the list.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that H.B. 2629 is too prescriptive in dictating instructional requirements to education professionals and therefore urges the SBE to begin the process of updating the social studies academic standards.

ABOR; course approval; accounting system (H.B. 2735) – VETOED

Authorizes the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) to delegate the authority to approve academic degrees or organizational units only to a university president and prohibits a university president from further delegating that authority. ABOR and university presidents must consult

with university faculty members regarding academic and educational activities and personnel matters. University faculty members must consult with ABOR and the university president regarding, rather than participate in, the governance and development of policy for a university.

Requires ABOR to require each public university to provide ABOR with access to the university's uniform accounting and reporting system for oversight and monitoring purposes.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that university faculty play a key role in a university's shared governance and limiting their management participation has the potential to weaken the institution and limit the perspectives and expertise included in decision making.

school policies; internet; wireless devices (H.B. 2793) – VETOED

Requires each school district governing board and charter school governing body to prescribe and enforce policies and procedures that govern student access to the school-provided internet and limit student use of wireless communications devices during the school day. The policies and procedures must: 1) include policies that restrict student access to social media platforms; 2) allow teachers to give students access to social media platforms to the extent necessary for educational purposes; and 3) allow students to use wireless communications devices for educational purposes as directed by a teacher or during an emergency.

The Governor indicates in her [veto message](#) that H.B. 2793 establishes an unnecessary mandate for an issue that schools are already addressing.